

Voices OF HOPE

Tanzania

Faraji Rachide Milanzi is a Community Health Worker (CHW) in Mwongozo, Tanzania. “Oh it’s busy, to be sure” he chuckles, “but I never tire from the work or responsibility.” Faraji estimates he sees three to five people on health-related issues a day in his community of 849, and relishes the responsibility and opportunity to learn while serving his community.

When asked about health challenges in Mwongozo, Faraji puts a finger to his chin. “Encouraging young mothers to go to the clinic early for their first checkup can be a challenge,” he says. “Our closest clinic is four kilometers away, the roads are bad and walking is often the only option. The other clinic, which many women prefer because service is better, is seven kilometers away.

“Generally they will go for their first visit four to five months into their pregnancy, but I try to get them to follow recommended schedules. Malaria is also a constant problem.”

Faraji notes that these challenges only reinforce the importance of the work he does to refer pregnant women to clinics. “Because food security has improved so much in our village in the past years, malnutrition is much less of a challenge for us,” he says, adding “Less time needed for the field means more time for health – life is good.”




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